(iii) Activities of Biotech Consortium India Ltd.

(iv) Activities of the Board of Research in Nuclear Science and Inter University Consortium set up by the Department of Atomic Energy.

(v) The Antrix Corporation under the Department of Space has strengthened the ties of space research with the Indian as well as World Space industries.

(vi) Technology Development Missions are being launched in 8 emerging areas of engineering and technology in IITs and IISc, Bangalore with active co-operation of industry.

(vii) The research laboratories under CSIR constantly interact with industry and academic institutions for transfer of technologies developed by them.

(viii) The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) plays an important role in transferring technologies from S&T institutions to industry.

(ix) In addition, many incentives are provided for industrial research such as:

(1) Income tax relief on R&D expenditure,

(2) Weighted Tax deduction for sponsored research,

(3) Customs Duty Exemption for Scientific & Industrial Research Organisations (SIROs) approved by the Deptt. of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR),

(4) Accelerated Depreciation allowance on plant and Machinery set up based on indigenous technology,

(5) Price control exemption on domestic R&D based bulk Drugs,

(6) Internatinonal R&D collaborations between industry and institutions in India and those in other countries.

(7) Financial support for R&D in industry,

(8) National awards for Outstanding In-house R&D achievements and commercialization of public funded R&D.

Biotechnology Research

4004. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether drug companies which fail to quickly build up their capacity for Biotechnology (BT) research are likely to face tough times ahead;

(b) whether under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime, the Biotechnology gap is going to widen; and

(c) if so, what strategy Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) A special focus is required on biotechnology research by the drug companies to meet the new challenges including the WTO regime.

(c) Several steps have been taken to strengthen R & D in drug companies by providing tax incentives to sponsored research programmes in approved national laboratories and exemption from price control for new drugs. In order to synergise the strength of the industries and national institutes to promote R & D in drugs specific research programmes have been initiated. New facilities for structural biology, analysis, drug screning etc. have been further supported.